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PLAN DEVELOPMENT OF
OB' AND YENISEY

The plan of Gidroenergoproyekt (Trust for Planning Hydroelectric Power Plants and Hydroelectric Power Installations) for developing the Ob' and Yenisey rivers calls for diverting 320 cubic kilometers of their flow into the Aral-Caspian depression every year.) This can be achieved by building seven dams with hydroelectric power stations and cutting a 1,300-kilometer-long canal to pass 10,000 cubic meters per second.

The following advantages will result from this construction:

1. Once the water reservoirs have been filled (this will take 15-20 years) 82 billion kilowatt-hours of electrical energy will be obtained from the seven power stations every year. Their total power will be 13 million kilowatts. This will be of vital importance for supplying the Urals and other areas.
2. Considerable quantities of water will enter the Aral-Caspian depression. This will avert a further drop in the levels of the Aral and Caspian seas, and enable up to 25 million hectares of desert to be irrigated, partly by using pumps. Up to 20 million hectares of desert will be supplied with water, making it possible to plant forests there. The climate will be improved and vast stretches of Central Asia and Siberia will be transformed.
3. There will be a deep water route, Yenisey-Ob'-Irtysch-Turgay watershed-Aral Sea-Uzboy-Caspian Sea, which will provide a new southern means of communication.

It is envisaged that the work will be carried out in stages.

The Scientific Council, Ministry of Electric Power Plants, noted that the scheme was one of several possible variants. Further work on it is required, and the Council decided to entrust this task to Gidroenergoproekt, which is to prepare a report on the scheme for diverting the flow of the Siberian rivers into Central Asia.

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